

STATINTL

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28 July 1961

## DECLASS REVIEW by NIMA/DOD

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Technical Plans and Development Staff

SUBJECT: Trip Report to the West Coast - 17 - 21 July 1961

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During the period covered by this report, I traveled to Los Angeles, California, to visit with [REDACTED] and to review with these two corporations the status of existing contracts.

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✓ 1. [REDACTED] We have two contracts with them, both Unclassified. The first contract is the development of an Image Quality Meter. In its original conception, this device was tended to view a piece of serially exposed or other exposed film, and the readout on three selected dials would yield acutance, granularity, and resolution as found within the image area. It was a noble idea but, as we have gotten into the project, we also learned more about the nature of images so we have begun to learn that what seems so bright and hopeful in the early stages is now, in a technical sense, an impossibility. This device [REDACTED] however, give us relative information on each of these image characteristics and in that format it will be an addition to our laboratory. The mechanism is complete except for some final tuning and debugging. [REDACTED] suggests, at a cost of [REDACTED] an additional work order to cover the installation of two control mechanisms. The first of these is a selective sensitive trigger mechanism in the resolution counter. Such a mechanism would permit the operator to control the sensitivity of the device so it would note whether it was dealing with high-contrast resolutions or low-contrast resolutions. Second suggestion: modification would cover the installation of a variable sensitivity noise filter. Since one of the problems most seriously affecting high resolution measurements is the noise level in film, it is desirable to be able to adjust the sensitivity of the resolution counter so that we could filter out random noise characteristics and this is the device which [REDACTED] now proposes to be added. The mechanism on its delivery, particularly if we go for the suggested modifications, will be a useful instrument. It will, however, require a highly skilled technician to be used. It will also require a highly skilled technician to evaluate the results derived from it. As of this moment, the proposal for the additional work is pending. Delivery date without that work will be sometime around the first of September. Delivery date, if we undertake the work, will be somewhere around late October.

The second contract with [REDACTED] covers development of an electronic image enhancement mechanism. This device will scan an image using a scanning point of light, transferring this scan into an electronic signal. It will modify the signal in terms of gain, intensity, noise

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